

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09

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R 260950 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2594

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

COMUSJAPANFUCHU JAPAN

UNCLAS TOKYO 3529

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PARM JA

SUBJECT: GOJ WRITTEN RESPONSE ON CONSTITUTIONALITY OF
DEFENSIVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS

REF: TOKYO 3458

1. FOLLOWING IS EMBOFF TRANSLATION OF ASAHI SHIMBUN REPORT
EVENING EDITION MARCH 23 ON CABINET APPROVAL OF GOJ WRITTEN
RESPONSE
CLARIFYING PRIMIN TANAKA MARCH 13 DIET RESPONSE ON CONSTITUTIONALITY
OF
CLEAR WEAPONS. BEGIN TEXT.

GOJ WRITTEN RESPONSE
POSSESSION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS
IFO CHANGE FROM PAST POSITION

IN CABINET MEETING MARCH 23, GOJ APPROVED WRITTEN RESPONSE ON
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND CONSTITUTION, AND SENT IT
TO INTERPELLATOR DIET MEMBER EIICHI NAGASUE (DSP). NAGASUE HAS
QUESTIONED WHETHER PRIMIN NUCLEAR STATEMENT IN LOWER HOUSE
BUDGET COMMITTEE MARCH 13, I. E. THAT QTE NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE
OFFENSIVE

WEAPONS, AND VIOLATE CONSTITUTION UNQTE, DID NOT CHANGE PAST GOJ
CONSTITUTIONAL INTERPRETATION WHICH HELD THAT NUCLEAR WEAPONS FOR
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DEFENSIVE USE ARE CONSTITUTIONAL.

HOWEVER, WRITTEN RESPONSE STATES VIEW THAT INTENT OF PRIMIN
STATEMENT WAS TO INDICATE THAT WHAT COMMONLY CALLED NUCLEAR
WEAPONS
ARE OFFENSIVE WEAPONS AND THAT THESE VIOLATE CONSTITUTION, AND
EMPHASIZED THAT (RESPONSE) QTE DID NOT CHANGE PAST GOJ VIEW THAT
NUCLEAR WEAPONS LIMITED TO ACHIEVEMENT OF LEGITIMATE PURPOSE OF
SELF- DEFENSE ARE CONSTITUTIONAL UNQTE.

SUBSTANCE OF (GOJ) WRITTEN RESPONSE ON RELATIONSHIP OF NUCLEAR
WEAPONS AND CONSTITUTION FOLLOWS.

PRIMIN TANAKA RESPONSE TO QUESTION BY EIICHI IGFCUE IN HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES BUDGET COMMITTEE MARCH 13 DID NOT CHANGE GOJ VIEW
HITHERTO STATED FROM TIME TO TIME THAT POSSESSION OF NUCLEAR
WEAPONS, IF WITHIN LIMIT OF ACHIEVING LEGITIMATE PURPOSE OF SELF-
DEFENSE, DOES NOT VIOLATE CONSTITUTION; HIS INTENT WAS TO STATE
THAT SINCE WHAT COMMONLY CALLED NUCLEAR WEAPONS IS CONSIDERED TO
INDICATE OFFENSIVE WEAPONS SUCH AS THREATEN OTHER COUNTRIES,
POSSESSION OF SUCH OFFENSIVE WEAPONS WOULD VIOLATE CONSTITUTION,
AND
THAT THAT SPIRIT OF CONSTITUTION BASIC PREMISE FOR THREE NON-
NUCLEAR PRINCIPLES. (NOTE: NON- POSSESSION, NON- MANUFACTURE AND
NON-
INTRODUCTION)

MOREOVER, AS STATED IN (PRIMIN) RESPONSE, GOJ FIRMLY SUPPORTS
POLICY OF THREE NON- NUCLEAR PRINCIPLES, AND WILL CONTINUE IN FUTURE
TO
CARRY OUT POLICY OF NOT POSSESSING NUCLEAR WEAPONS, OF WHATEVER
KIND.
END TEXT.

2. MOFA CONFIRMS THAT ABOVE REPORT ACCURATELY STATES WRITTEN
RESPONSE.
INGERSOLL

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